GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3415
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2017
Delay in Production of Tejas
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been delay in the production line of the 4.5 generation aircraft Tejas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to expedite the production line;

(c) whether there has been delay in the manufacturing / import of 5th generation aircraft and research of 6th generation aircraft and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to deploy Indian air shield combat system near the border of China and to meet the shortage of aircraft carriers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
????? ????? ?????? (??. ????? ?????)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As envisaged in the contracts signed between IAF & HAL for 20 Initial Operation Clearance (IOC) standard and 20 Final Operation Clearance (FOC) standard of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'TEJAS', the delivery schedule has been delayed. Against total 20 IOC aircraft, so far, 4 have been delivered by HAL to IAF. Out of the balance, 12 aircraft are at production stage and 4 aircraft which are trainers will be taken up for production after release of Standard of Preparation (SOP) by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), the Programme Management Agency for LCA. The production activities for 20 Final Operation Clearance (FOC) aircraft are linked to the FOC clearance by ADA.

HAL has taken following initiatives for increasing the production rate of LCA TEJAS:-
(i) For ramping up production capacity from existing 8 aircraft to 16 aircraft per annum, HAL has obtained Government of India sanction on 15th March, 2017.
(ii) Establishment of second line for structural and equipping activities at Aircraft Division, HAL.
(iii) Increase in number of jigs for front fuselage, centre fuselage, rear fuselage and wings.
(iv) Reduction in manufacturing cycle time through improved supply chain management, learning and augmentation of manpower.
(v) Modularization of electrical looms which was not addressed during design phase, for reduction of cycle time of aircraft looming.
(vi) Increase private partnership in manufacturing through outsourcing of major modules namely Wing, Centre fuselage, Rear fuselage, Front fuselage and various sub-assemblies to private vendors.

(c) No, Madam. Presently, Fifth Generation aircraft is not being manufactured / imported. For 6th Generation aircraft, ADA has completed the feasibility study.
(d) There is no specific Air Shield Combat System. Surface to Air Guided Weapons (SAGW) have been deployed in the Eastern Region.

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